

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GLOBAL ANTI-POACHING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, illegal poaching has hit a crisis point for many of the world's most iconic species. Nearly 100 elephants are being slaughtered each day by ivory poachers. The black market sale of rhino horn and trafficking in infant gorillas is driving these species to the brink of extinction. H.R. 2494, the Global Anti-Poaching Act, takes critical steps to strengthen the punishments for poaching and wildlife tracking.

The United States is a leader in the fight to protect endangered and threatened species around the world, and this legislation continues that legacy. This bill will ensure that the full strength of the U.S. criminal justice system can be brought to bear against those who seek to kill, trade, or otherwise profit from the furs, pelts, skins, or other body parts of protected species. The profits from this illegal trade are often used to fund terrorist or criminal activities, making the tougher enforcements in this bill an issue of national security as well.

Additionally, this bill creates important partnerships with nations around the world to lend our country's expertise in countering wildlife trafficking to local law enforcement officials on the ground. By engaging partners across national boundaries, coordinating resources, and sharing intelligence, this legislation would make anti-poaching efforts around the world more efficient and more effective.

Poaching is a big business in the criminal world that threatens species across the globe. This legislation steps up America's efforts to ensure the protection of endangered species and crack down on this black market industry. I thank Mr. ROYCE, as the author of this bill and our founding co-chair on the International Conservation Caucus, for his leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2494.

HONOR OUR VETERANS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Men and Women of The Armed Forces. We give thanks to them and their families, who live and die and carry the burdens of war for all that we hold dear. Bless them. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

Honor our Veteran's
One day is not enough.
Somehow one day of the year does not seem just.

Honor our Veteran's each day of the year
For they fight and die for all of us here
For all of those freedom's that we hold dear
Honor our Veteran's not one,
but every day of the year

For they are ones,
who must live with all of those tears
For all of their Brothers and Sisters In Arms
they have lost here.

And who awake in the night with all of those nightmares.

Whose families who must now live in fear
Not knowing whose going,
or ever coming back here
Honor our Veteran's every day of the year.

For those are ones,
who must lay in hospital beds when its all said and done

With all of their families holding their daughters and sons.

And their Husbands and Wives.
The Greatest Loves of their lives.

So all in tears.

Teaching Us.

Beseeching Us.

All about honor and duty,
and courage so clear.

Who against all odds now cling to life here.
The ones who have died.

Who live without arms and legs as they try.
With scars on their faces

And all places

Living in darkness losing their sight.

Carried with them for the rest of their lives.
Some how it does not seem right.

That we only take one day to make honor of them who fight the fight.

America's most magnificent of all lights.
Who give the greatest gifts of sacrifice.

Honor our Veteran's every day and night
I bid you to please

To fall to your knee's

And say a prayer of thanks for all of these

Buy them a drink.

Buy them a meal.

Put your arm around them and let them know how you feel.

Go up to them and their families,
and tell them how much they mean.

Because all that they ask.

Are these two words from yours lips to so pass.

Thank you.

Yea, one day not enough.

For all of our freedoms of which they bought.

One day just somehow does not seem just.

For all that they've taught.

Honor our Veteran's every day of the year.

Say a prayer of thanks,

and for them and their families shed a tear.
Honor our Veteran's every day of the year.

HONDURAN CIVIL SOCIETY DEMANDS INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE AND END CORRUPTION AND IMPUNITY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in September I traveled to Honduras as part of a

fact-finding delegation organized by the Washington Office on Latin America. Everywhere we went we heard about people's concern over endemic corruption and impunity.

An unprecedented citizens' movement has inspired thousands of Hondurans to take to the street in peaceful protest marches demanding that Honduras establish an international, independent commission with the mandate to investigate crimes of corruption and impunity and the ability to participate in their prosecution. This type of a commission is modeled on the successful work over the past decade of the "CICIG" in Guatemala.

This movement is called the "outraged opposition," or "Oposición Indignada." They are led, in large part, by an intelligent, thoughtful and politically diverse group of young people who organize using social media and who have come together because of their shared desire to end corruption in their country. They now face constant threats for their initiative, and I hope that the Honduran government will ensure their protection and investigate the threats against them so that they may continue to exercise their basic rights to freedom of speech and association.

On September 28th, the Organization of American States presented to the Honduran president a proposal for a commission that would help the notoriously weak Honduran judicial system to gain capacity to carry out its responsibilities. Regrettably, I believe this proposal falls woefully short of what is required to break the culture of corruption and impunity that so characterizes the Honduran State. As we learned from Guatemala, to successfully bring to justice those who benefit from corruption and impunity, a commission must be truly independent with a mandate to investigate exemplar cases wherever the evidence warrants and participate in the prosecution of those cases under national law.

Last week, on October 28th, a broad coalition of Honduran civil society, the Coalition Against Impunity, issued a statement declaring that the mission proposed by the OAS and the government is itself an obstacle to creating a genuine, independent commission that can truly tackle the rampant corruption and impunity in Honduras. Earlier, on October 4th, the "Indignados" issued a similar critique, pointing out the weaknesses of the OAS proposal to independently investigate crimes of corruption and ensure their prosecution.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a copy of the letter addressed to the OAS by the Oposición Indignada that outlines their concerns with that proposal. It is my hope that the OAS will listen seriously to this unprecedented citizens' movement and ensure that any commission that comes into being in Honduras will be truly politically and financially independent, and have the mandate to undertake independent investigations into crimes of corruption and impunity and ensure their prosecution.

(English translation of the letter written in Spanish is as follows:)

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.